

## **Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revision Public Information & Scoping Meeting August 1, 2011**

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Spokane County Public Library, North Branch, 44 E. Hawthorne Road, Spokane, WA

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### **Meeting Purpose and Overview**

The USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) hosted a public information and scoping meeting for the Colville and Okanogan National Forest Plan in Spokane, Washington on August 1, 2011. The meeting provided a combination of formats, including open house, presentation, question and response, and group comments.

The meeting served two purposes: to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the Forest Service's proposals for long-term management of the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, and to provide information on how the public can comment on the proposals, how their comments will be used, and to learn about future opportunities for their involvement.

### **Meeting Agenda**

Deborah Kelly, Plan Revision Public Affairs Specialist, welcomed everyone and explained the meeting objectives, agenda, and meeting conduct. Travis Fletcher, Newport/Sullivan Lake Acting District Ranger, talked briefly about the Forest Plan Revision process, the value of public participation in the process, and Forest Service expectations for the meeting. Travis introduced the rest of the Forest Service's Forest Plan Revision team (Team).

### **Presentation**

Margaret Hartzell, Team leader, presented the key concepts of the Proposed Actions. She also explained that the comment period was extended an additional 30 days until September 28. Since this meeting was held in Spokane, Margaret focused on the specific proposals related to the Colville National Forest. She provided a general overview; a process timeline; and *new* and *continued* goals of the Proposed Actions for the following categories:

- Aquatics and riparian systems
- Plants
- Vegetation
- Wildlife habitat
- Access
- Livestock grazing
- Recreation
- Renewable forest products

- Scenery
- Preliminary Wilderness recommendations

Margaret also explained the “tools” the plan uses, as well as how comments are being gathered and used in the process. Please see Attachment 2 for the presentation slides.

Margaret also explained the difference between the Plan Revision project and Travel Management.

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## Questions & Answers (Q&A)

The following is a synopsis of questions (Q) / comments (C) and corresponding responses (R) from the meeting. Note: similar questions / concerns were combined for summarization purposes.

**Q: There is 101,000 acres of proposed wilderness. How many allotments does it eliminate?**

*R: None. Allotments will continue, and if designated wilderness by Congress, grazing allotments would be grandfathered in.*

**Q: Why aren't you addressing the issue of invasive plants and genetically modified seeds?**

*R: We are not using genetically modified seed. However, that would be a good comment or concern to send in related to activities on lands adjacent to national forest—which could impact the national forest.*

**Q: Related to harvest, why the reduction?**

*R: Much of the Forest will still be managed for timber production. Harvest levels are constrained by staffing and budget.*

**Q: What criteria was used to determine number of wilderness acres recommended?**

*R: Capability, availability and need were the criteria used (see Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70, Wilderness Evaluation).*

**Q: Why were so many acres of the Kettle Crest area not recommended for wilderness?**

*R: This area contains uranium deposits, wildland urban interface, sees a lot of mountain bike use and contains a rental cabin.*

**Q: What planning rule are you using?**

*R: The 1982 Planning Rule.*

**Q: What are the potential harvest levels?**

*R: Allowable sale quantity (ASQ) and long term sustained yield capacity (LTSYC) numbers will be produced in the DEIS.*

**Q: Will there be an economic analysis?**

*R: The DEIS will evaluate the economic impact.*

**Q: You have been meeting for two years, why haven't I been notified of meetings before?**

*R: Notification for public meetings goes to local and regional media outlets. Meeting notices are posted on the project website, and both forest's websites. People can also ask to be added to the project mailing list—to receive either e-mail or hard copy notifications. Each forest also maintains a schedule of proposed actions (SCOPA List) where forest NEPA projects are announced. This listing is updated quarterly and is available on the web and at Forest Service offices, and people can ask to be added to that notification list.*

**Q: Could more acreage be added to PAR wilderness?**

*R: Yes*

**Are there legal ATV trails in recommended wilderness?**

*R: No*

**Q: How much authority does the UN exert over us?**

*R: None*

**Q: Is the 10,000 acres vegetation treatment figure correct?**

*R: Yes.*

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## **Closing**

Debbie noted that the formal presentation and question-answer session had ended, and that Forest Service staff would be available for further discussion and to answer any remaining questions.

Margaret and Travis thanked everyone for their participation in the process, noting that their input will be helpful in developing plans in the future. They also encouraged everyone to submit written comments.

The open house reconvened for another 30 minutes. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attachment 1 includes a list of Forest Service staff and meeting attendees. Attachment 2 provides a sample of the PowerPoint presentation. Attachment 3 includes a list of those public individuals that signed-in on the sign-up sheets.

## Attachment 1: List of Forest Service Staff

Forest Service Staff		
Name	Forest	City, State
Mark Loewen	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Wenatchee, WA
Travis Fletcher	Colville	Newport, WA
Margaret Hartzell	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Okanogan, WA
Debbie Kelly	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Okanogan, WA
Craig Newman	Colville	Colville, WA
Lisa Therrell	Okanogan-Wenatchee	Leavenworth, WA

## Attachment 2: Presentation Slides

# WELCOME!

## COLVILLE AND OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION

### PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

August 1, 2011

Spokane, Washington

## Agenda

- 5:00 p.m. Open House
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome and Meeting Overview
- 5:40 p.m. Informational Presentation  
Questions and Responses
- 6:20 p.m. Return to Open House
- 7:00 p.m. Adjourn

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## Meeting Principles

- Listen actively
- Participate actively
- Discuss concerns in a constructive and civil manner
- Share question and response time
- Please hold applause
- Turn off/mute electronic devices
- Let the facilitators or Forest Service Staff know if you need help finding something, or someone to talk with you.
- The FS will genuinely try to answer, as specifically as possible, any questions about the proposed actions and how they may affect your interest(s) on the Colville or Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

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## Informational Presentation

Margaret Hartzell,  
Forest Plan Revision Team Leader

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## Why you should be involved

- Forest Plan Revision – Proposed Action public involvement
- June 30 to September 28, 2011

*"Sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the  
Nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of  
present and future generations."*  
- Forest Service Mission

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## What Plans Do...

- Describes desired
  - Habitat for wildlife, aquatic species, and plants
  - Vegetation (trees, shrubs, range lands)
- Identifies areas suited for kinds of travel
  - on foot, motorized, or mechanized
- Recommend wilderness, determine eligibility of wild and scenic rivers
- Provide sideboards for projects
  - standards and guidelines

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## Plan Revision – the basics

- Managing expectations
- Bring current plan up-to-date as required by NFMA
- Cannot make changes to laws, regulations, the directives, policy



Umbrella  
Operating framework for Forest

NEWZ Plan Revision

## Time Line

- This summer – Proposed Action
- Summer 2012 – DEIS
- Summer 2013 – FEIS
- Fall 2013 – revised forest plan



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## Proposed Action

- Aquatics and Riparian Systems
  - ▣ New – Key watersheds
  - ▣ Continuing – good water quality, riparian buffers, healthy riparian ecosystems



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## Proposed Action

- Plants
  - ▣ Continue – preventing introduction and spread of invasive plants
  - ▣ Using native plants
  - ▣ Protecting unique habitats, rare plants, ESA species
  - ▣ Have healthy ecosystems



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## Proposed Action

- Vegetation
  - ▣ New – role of disturbance in ecosystem; data on composition, structure, and spatial patterns
  - ▣ Continue – focus on ecosystem restoration and forest health, managing wildfire risks, contributing habitat



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## Proposed Action

- Wildlife Habitat
  - ▣ New – science to better describe habitat condition; ESA species
  - ▣ Continue – high quality habitat, connectivity, and contributing to recovery of ESA species



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## Proposed Action

- Access – roads and trails, docks and bridges
  - ▣ Continue – safe, affordable, environmentally sound system of roads and trails
  - ▣ Continue – range of recreational trails
    - NOTE on the Travel Management process



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## Proposed Action

- Livestock Grazing
  - ▣ Continue – range lands in good condition.



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## Proposed Action

- Recreation
  - ▣ New – additional data on recreation trends and use specific to Forest
  - ▣ Continue – offer quality, nature-based recreation in outdoor setting



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## Proposed Action

- Renewable Forest Products
  - ▣ Special forest products, merchantable wood products
  - ▣ Continue – provide firewood, saw timber, biomass, wood fiber
  - ▣ 25 to 35 mmbf and 10,000 acres per year on average



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## Proposed Action

- Scenery
  - ▣ New – system that emphasizes actively managing to enhance and maintain
  - ▣ Continue – provide beautiful scenery



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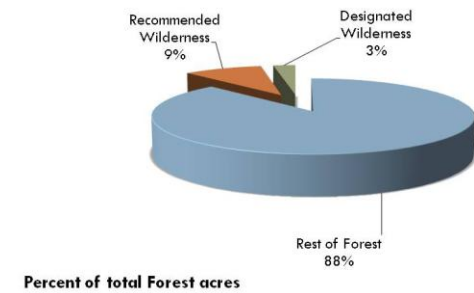
## Proposed Action

- Preliminary Wilderness Recommendation
  - ▣ Continue – Salmo-Priest Wilderness – 29,000 acres
  - ▣ New – preliminary recommendation of 101,000 acres.
    - About 9% of Forest
    - Not final decision, existing uses can continue until Congress acts
    - Did not recommend areas with motorized trails, mining operations, WUI with dry Forest, tools needed, not high quality



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## Proposed Action



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## Proposed Action

- Tool the plan uses - Management Areas
  - Consistent with neighbors
  - Habitats move
  - New congressionally created trail – Pacific Northwest National Scenic



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## Commenting

- Today – gather information, ask questions
- Tomorrow - Send us comments specific to the proposed action, on-target, thoughtful
- Use comments to build options (alternatives) for plan



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## How to Comment

- **Send comments to:**
  - Forest Plan Revision
  - Okanogan Valley Office
  - 1240 Second Avenue South
  - Okanogan, WA 98840
- Email: [r6\\_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us)
- Website: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision)

Comments are most helpful if received by September 28, 2011.

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